

IN MEMORIAM.

---

Rev. David Irving, D. D.

*October 12, 1885.*

II-2  
Ir83in

*Library of the Theological Seminary,*

PRINCETON, N. J.

BX 9225 .I73 I55

In memoriam

*Shelf.....*













Yours Sincerely/  
D Irving



✓  
**In Memoriam.**

—•—  
✓  
REV. DAVID IRVING, D. D.

BORN AUGUST 31ST, 1821.

DIED OCTOBER 12TH, 1885.



DAVID IRVING was born August 31st, 1821, near Annan, in the district of Annandale, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. He was the third of seven children of John and Melville Drummond Irving, four of whom still survive him. His early life was spent in Annan, where he received the greater portion of his classical education. He left Scotland for America in his eighteenth year, and engaged in teaching for several years in Mississippi and Tennessee. In his nineteenth year he made confession of his faith in Christ, under the ministration of Rev. S. M. Williamson of Tennessee, and three years afterward, having decided to study for the ministry, he entered the Theological Seminary of Princeton, N. J. On his graduation he offered himself, as a missionary, to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and having been accepted he was appointed to Futtehghurh, Northern India. He was ordained as an evangelist by the Presbytery of Western District at Memphis, Tennessee, in June, 1846, the charge having been

delivered by his former pastor, Rev. Mr. Williamson. The services were said to have been unusually impressive and solemn, as he was the first missionary that had ever gone from that Presbytery to the heathen. On June 23d, of that same year, he was married to Elizabeth Martin, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Alfred and Eliza Freeman, of New York. He embarked at Boston, August, 1846, in a sailing vessel, bound direct to Calcutta, which he reached after a long voyage of nearly six months. The climate of India being unsuited to the constitution of his wife, he was obliged to return home after having labored in the field for over two years. Though he was thus compelled to leave the foreign field, his interest in the missionary work never ceased. His love for India was especially strong, for there he had come in personal contact with the heathen; there he had made many friends among his fellow missionaries, and there he had buried his first-born child. On his return to this country he took charge of the Presbyterian Church of North Salem, New York, for five years, when he was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, New Jersey. Here he labored for ten years, when he resigned to accept the position of Corresponding Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and removed to Orange, New Jersey, one year later. In 1884 he was sent as a delegate to the Pan-Presbyterian

Council, which met in Belfast, Ireland. During the intervals of the sessions of the Council he went with a large body of the delegates on an excursion to the Giant's Causeway, and in returning from there to Portrush he was thrown from a jaunting car into the road with such force as to break his leg, and produce a nervous shock, from which he never recovered. His injuries, after a year of partial recovery, ended in a general paralysis of his whole system, which carried him slowly to the grave. After having endured intense sufferings for several weeks, death finally released him from all his pains on the morning of October 12th, and earth was exchanged for heaven. "Precious in the sight of the Lord, is the death of His saints."



THE FUNERAL SERVICES were held on Thursday afternoon, October 15th, at half-past three o'clock, from the Central Presbyterian Church of Orange, New Jersey. After selections from the Scriptures had been read by Rev. Alfred Yeomans, D. D., pastor of the deceased, and prayer offered by Rev. William M. Paxton, D. D., of Princeton Theological Seminary, at the house, the relatives and friends, together with the members of the Board of Foreign Missions, proceeded to the church. The services there were opened with singing the hymn :

“Nearer my God to Thee,”

by a quartette choir. The Scriptures were then read by Rev. Alfred Yeomans, D. D. Addresses were delivered by Rev. J. D. Wells, D. D., President of the Board of Foreign Missions; Rev. John Hall, D. D., President of the Board of Home Missions; and Rev. Alfred Yeomans, D. D. Prayer was then offered by Rev. Henry F. Hickok, D. D.,

pastor of the Second Presbyterian (Brick) Church of Orange. After the choir had sung the hymn :

“ Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,”

the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Wells. The interment took place at Greenwood Cemetery, on Friday, October 16th. Prayer was offered at the grave by Rev. Arthur Mitchell, D. D., Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions.



ADDRESS BY REV. J. D. WELLS, D. D.

---

It has long been known by the friends of Dr. IRVING, that he was declining in health. Refusing to spare himself while he could work, unwittingly perhaps, he went beyond the line of safety, and hastened the time of his departure. The injury, received by him in the north of Ireland, was not the beginning of his decline.

On his return from abroad, whither he went, not only for rest, but also to represent the Board of Foreign Missions, at the great council of Presbyterian Ministers and laymen in Belfast, Ireland, he was so changed in appearance—had aged so much—that coming suddenly into his presence, as he leant heavily upon his staff, one might easily have mistaken him for another person. Precisely this happened to me, although I had known him well for many years.

When I last saw him at the Mission Rooms, early in the summer, he was making anxious inquiry as to his duty in relation to the Board. Loving the service in which, for twenty years, he had been earnestly engaged, and yet, unwilling to hold a place that he could not fill, he asked, of one and another in whose judgment he had confidence, what he should do?—lay down his office as Secretary of the Board? or wait and see what the Lord would do for him as the summer passed?

I am thankful that he waited, and that he has now gone to the Master's presence, bearing the office that he loved so well, and filled with such honor to himself, and blessing to a cause, than which there is no greater in all the world.

We are gathered now in the presence of his sacred relics. We believe that "The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in the grave until the resurrection." For our dear brother we have only congratulations. We share, and, if possible, would mitigate the sorrows of those from whose home-life he is taken, not to return.

But may we not enter somewhat into the joy of our Lord, who receives unto Himself a "good and faithful servant," purchased with His own blood; and also into the joy of our brother, who has gone to be "forever with the Lord"?

Too little, perhaps, on occasions like this, do we give our thoughts to the heavenward side of dying ;—the gain to Christ and heaven, and to those who leave us for heaven, of having the life here close, and the life there open. As surely as “All things are ours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come,” and, “all things work together for good to them that love God :—to them that are the called according to His purpose ;”—so surely, I believe, that the work our Lord is doing on the earth, for the saving of men, by the ministry of His church and of holy angels, is not hindered, but rather helped, when He receives His servants to Himself. It is He that goeth forth conquering and to conquer. He is never defeated by His foes ; and He surely does not pause or falter in His path of conquest, when the faithful come at His call to the end of their course, and enter into rest and glory. We may not say, that they are called hence, and thither, to share, more powerfully than ever, in the very work that fell from their weary hands here, for this is not revealed. But it is revealed that, while they rest from their labors, their works do follow them : follow them to the presence of Christ, for recognition and reward ; and follow them, in the sense of remaining on the earth for study and imitation.

Let me say in a word just here that, in these times of sorrow, we find how true it is that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." We seek relief in more intimate fellowship with Him. We remember that "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." We learn how good it is to embrace His will, to commit our personal and family affairs, and the interests of His kingdom to His strong hands and wise decrees; to say with our Saviour, not only "Father, save me from this hour,"—but also, "Father, glorify Thy name;" to welcome to our hearts as an abiding Guest the other Comforter, and to consider that He gives comfort, as the "*Spirit of Truth*," by the doctrines and promises of the Scriptures, into the real knowledge and love of which He alone can lead us.

But may we not also dwell with sacred joy and gratitude, upon the graces and the work of those who go from our homes and fellowship, to the presence of our Lord?

Dr. IRVING did not waste, and so lose the sixty-four years of his life. His first twenty years were a preparation for all that followed. Before entering the ministry he was a teacher. From his ordination as an evangelist, after three years in Princeton Seminary,—*i. e.*, from 1846 to 1849,—he was a missionary of our Board in northern India.

These were years in which he was getting ready, although he knew it not, for what proved to be his great life work. Eager for knowledge; with a mind tenacious of facts; careful in his generalizations; searching for guiding principles in mission work, and finding them; loving the souls for whom he watched, and his brethren with whom he was associated; knowing well the difficulties of the work, and the trials, as well as the joys, of missionary life and service; he left the field, not because he wished to, but because necessity was laid upon him, and he never ceased to look upon it with loving eye.

From 1850 to 1855, he was stated supply of a Presbyterian Church in North Salem, New York, and from 1855 to 1865, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Morristown, New Jersey. Thus, for about fifteen consecutive years, he was preaching the gospel in this land, and moving the people, whom he served, to largest possible co-operation in the great work of the world's evangelization.

It was Dr. IRVING'S known zeal, and his success in developing, and, by God's blessing, sustaining a missionary spirit in the churches served by him that led to his appointment as a Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, in the year 1865. During all the years since that date, as a member of the Board, I have been in somewhat intimate relations to him.

There is an impression, shared by many who have no love for the cause of Christ, and by some, I am sorry to say, who certainly do love it, that the office of Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, indeed of any Board of the Church, and especially that office held in common with two or three others, if not a sinecure, can never overtax or even severely tax, the mind and nerve of any one who holds it.

I believe that Dr. IRVING shortened his life by overwork, and by failing to take occasional and much needed rest. He worked in the office, in the cars, and at his home. He worked in the pulpits of many churches; in Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies. He corresponded with missionaries in the field, and shared in the responsible oversight of their work, and of the entire work of the Board. For years he did royal service as editor of the *Foreign Missionary*. This required large reading, and much use of the pen. Its results were seen in many articles of great value, and power. They attracted the attention, and won the admiration of good men and women on more than one continent, although they were sadly overlooked by many pastors and churches in our own land.

And this leads me to add, that a large part of his work, as of that done by his associates, was carried forward without the loving appreciation of those whose representative he was, and his surviving brethren are.

We, that are pastors, live among our people. We stand face to face, and heart to heart, with them, week after week, and year after year. We visit their homes, and they ours. It is a perpetual joy and inspiration to see them, to hear their prayers in our behalf, and now and then to be told that our ministry helps them onward and upward in the Christian life.

The absence of all this from the life of a Secretary, and especially of one who has been for many years in the pastoral relation, makes the strain of mind and heart and nerve very severe. Nothing but love to the Master and souls, with the inspiration coming from the Holy Spirit under the great commission, and the promise of large success, and full reward, can keep one to his work.

The great bulk of a Secretary's work is utterly unnoticed and unknown by the Church and the world. An occasional sermon or address, an article of commanding importance and interest, read by a few of his brethren, but neglected by more, may bring helpful recognition and commendation: but by far the larger part of what he does is so little known, and appreciated, that by many it is hardly believed to have been done at all.

But I have said enough—too much, perhaps, in thus making known some of the trials common to our brother who has entered into rest, and his associates who live to carry forward the great work, without his help.



Let us be thankful that nothing of service rendered to Christ, and those for whom He died, escape His loving notice, or will be without full reward. And let us rejoice that another servant of our Lord, whom we knew and loved, faithful unto death, has gone to receive a crown of life. The forty or fifty years that measure the time of his earthly service, cover the most wonderful period of the world's history in relation to the progress of the Gospel. It is a sacred privilege to tarry here, and toil, and suffer, for the Master and His cause. But is it not a higher privilege, to be called to His presence and throne, to see the King in His beauty, and, at that centre of glory, learn what the kingdom is, and how resistless are the consecrated forces in heaven and earth that are combined for the conquest of the world?

It is an honor to bear the name of one, who through grace abounding, wrought for the Master and His cause as Dr. IRVING wrought, and who has attained to such exaltation. Instead of being cast down and disheartened because he has left us, we may well be comforted concerning our brother, and moved to more earnest and hopeful service because he has gone to be "forever with the Lord."

We cannot greet him and get an audible answer; but we can, and will, say, as in his hearing,



“ Brother, though from yonder sky,  
Cometh neither voice nor cry,  
Yet we know from thee, to-day,  
Every pain hath passed away.”

“ Not for thee shall tears be given,  
Child of God, and heir of heaven :  
For He gave thee sweet release :  
Thine the Christian's death of peace.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“ While we weep, as Jesus wept,  
Thou shalt sleep, as Jesus slept ;  
With thy Saviour thou shalt rest,  
Crowned, and glorified, and blest.”



ADDRESS BY REV. JOHN HALL, D. D.

---

In July, 1884, after Dr. IRVING had suffered in the way, to which allusion has already been made, having learned the situation in which he was placed, I went down from Belfast to Portrush, that I might see him and express sympathy with him. He was among strangers: he was in great physical suffering: his life was in some degree in danger: he was away from the tender associate of his life, and from his family, and from those things which are commonly regarded as mitigations of pain. I was, as you can well understand, deeply concerned about the condition in which, in the Providence of God, he was placed. I had opportunity of lengthened conversation with him, and we had prayer together. There was not a word of discontent: there was not a tone of despondency: there was not even an allusion to anything of which he might complain. It

had pleased God to do this, it was God's will, and the spirit of the interview was, on his part, God's will be done.

At a later time, when he had come to this side of the water, I had an opportunity of repeating the interview. Conditions had changed in a good degree, but he had not changed. There was the same strong, manly nature, bowed down in meek and loving and most humble submission before his Father in Heaven. Since that time, there has been long endurance, and there has been most varied suffering: there has been a fearful strain upon faith and hope, but God helped him to endure the strain, and filled his heart with peace: and when the struggle closed, none could hesitate a moment to speak the words of the Bible over the silent remains, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Brethren, when we do great public services under the eye of our fellow men, we get more or less encouragement. We cannot always be sure of how much we are doing for Christ, how much in the view of our brethren; but when we suffer, and there is no complaint, when we are laid aside and there is a gentle submission, we are bringing forth, what may be called, the passive fruits of righteousness; there is the clearest possible evidence that we are God's children, that He is teaching us, that He is making us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

After what has been so fittingly said to you as to the public services rendered by our brother, it is not needful for me to refer to them. As connected with the department of missionary labor that has its field in this land, I give expression for my associates and myself to the deep sympathy that we feel for his associates, who labor for the foreign field. So I would fain give expression to the tender sympathies that we feel for the immediate kindred and family bereft, and for the many friends who have known Dr. IRVING for many years as the true man, the sweet and reasonable friend, the considerate and wise associate, the meek and gentle Christian.

Now his work is done : the last pain has been endured ; the rest has been entered ; the perfect peace has begun ; the reward is being enjoyed ; the lesson is being given to us. Christian workers, Christian sufferers, Christian ministers, God is speaking to us. He is bidding us lay up treasure in heaven ; and we can do that if we will. The habits of mind and heart that we form in life, will be developed and completed there ; the Christian sympathies that we cherish, the aspirations that have moved within us, the high ideals that we set before us, the services we try to render for Christ's sake to friends or strangers, the sufferings that we endure with uncomplaining patience, the memories that we shall carry with us into the presence of the King—

all these are treasures which we as Christians can lay up here on earth. Let us be busy, busy from day to day, busy as God's children obeying our Father, busy in the work while we have power to work and work to do, and when God takes away the power or withdraws the work, let us say in our hearts, "We had fathers of our flesh who corrected us and we gave them reverence; shall we not rather be in subjection to the Father of Spirits and live?" So it was with our brother through all the weary months that preceded dissolution.

The leaves of the trees were green and beautiful through the summer. A change has come over many of them now. They are no longer green, but they are still beautiful, with a new and strange beauty, indicative, indeed, of the fact that they will soon fall; but they are beautiful still. It has been so with his life, but there is a wide difference. The leaf fadeth and decayeth, and is gone forever, but this body will be raised up and reconstructed, and made like unto Christ's glorified body; and he and we shall be forever with the Lord.

These, fellow Christians, brother ministers, these are the truths, which accepted and believed by us, and worked out, effect the real unity between the life that is here, and the greater life that is yonder. "Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; whether we die, we die unto

the Lord; whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

Is there any one listening, brought here by regard and esteem for him whom God has taken, who has never accepted Christ and received the atonement? Then let there be a voice to that soul from these silent, motionless remains. Dear friends, make his Saviour your Saviour, and his Master your Master, that his portion may be your portion in the great hereafter.





ADDRESS BY REV. ALFRED YEOMANS, D.D.

---

It might reasonably be expected, that the passing away of so strong and prominent a character from this community, would leave a void which would be very keenly felt. As the pastor of the church in which DR. IRVING made his religious home, and with whose whole history he was so closely identified, I might properly say a few words respecting the place he filled as a parishioner and a personal friend.

As was natural for one so highly endowed by force of character, clear and decided convictions, large knowledge of affairs, and eminent administrative ability, Dr. IRVING stood at the front in every enterprise to which he put his hand. Within a year after he took up his residence in Orange he became the leader of a little band of Presbyterian families, who, recognizing the near demand for

Church extension in this city, resolved to organize this Church. There were others among the pioneers in this enterprise who were able to contribute more largely than he of pecuniary aid, though he was always generous in his gifts; but none certainly contributed more largely of moral and spiritual force to the founding of this Church. I have always been accustomed to regard him as virtually the organizing hand, the force that gave the starting impulse, and I rejoice that he lived long enough to see his judgment justified in the goodly prosperity of this Church.

But if his efficient help at the beginning was valuable, so also was his constant counsel all along. No pastor could ever have a kinder and more helpful and considerate parishioner than I have had in Dr. IRVING. Ministers understand how much of grace is needed to sit quietly and contentedly in the pew under the ministrations of those younger than themselves, and with less of the wisdom which comes from experience. And they will know how to appreciate the grace and goodness of the man, when I say that never in all the seventeen years of my relation to Dr. IRVING, as the pastor of his family, have I ever experienced anything but the kindest, most brotherly and helpful treatment at his hands. His counsel was invaluable to me. And though he was not so far my superior in years as to make it natural for me to call him a father, yet

there was in him a certain ripeness of wisdom, and clearness and decision of judgment, that constrained me to look up to him as to a father and constantly resort to him for advice. I relied implicitly upon that advice, and never did I have occasion to regret such confidence. Now that he is gone from us, and the lips that were wont to utter such kindly counsel are sealed in death, I feel as though the strong staff were broken.

Perhaps this readiness to take responsibility upon himself, and lend the help of his strong hand to those that sought it, has had much to do with what we cannot but regard as an untimely death. We are all too willing to lay burdens upon those whose broad and ready shoulders seem to be made to bear them. Others have spoken of his arduous toil as a Secretary of Foreign Missions. The same faithful and unsparing diligence characterized everything that he did. His capacity for work was enormous. Conscious of powers of endurance beyond those of ordinary men, he was too ready to tax them to the full, and no doubt the limit of prudence was passed long before the first break in his strength gave warning of danger. Ten years more of solid work might reasonably have been expected from one of his vigorous constitution. But the habit of work had so grown upon him that he had virtually lost all relish for rest and recreation, and could not realize the

necessity of unbending the bow. After laboring hard at his office desk for six days in the week, he would often make the Sabbath also a working day by supplying the pulpits of his brethren in the ministry, that they might enjoy a breathing spell. Thus through winter's cold and summer's heat he wrought on, refusing the rest which others could see he greatly needed.

While his life was thus given to serious labors, and his soul was absorbed by the service of His master, and the progress of the kingdom of righteousness, there was no cold abstraction in mood or manner which held him apart from friends and neighbors as though he lived in a separate world. A genial wit and kindly humor lighted up his stern and earnest devotion to work, and made his presence the life of the home and the social circle. The tenderest sympathy with those in trouble drew around him devoted friends. Always cheerful and bright, he was a welcome guest at any fireside. And never did he seem impatient of interruption in his work or disturbance of his rest when any opportunity occurred of helping a friend with counsel, or cheering him with bright and hopeful sympathy.

But when the thought of incompleteness comes over us, as we contemplate the strong man too early laid in his grave, we must remember that with the humble believer in Christ, nothing is incomplete. "Ye are complete in Him."

Seemingly unfinished labors, when Christ calls his faithful servant to his reward, are complete in Him. The work which Christ has broken off, He will finish. Dr. IRVING seemed to covet the benediction, "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when He cometh, shall find *so doing*." His ambition seemed to be to die in harness.

But let us turn now for comfort to those precious words which God has written for the consolation of mourners, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

"Weep not for death !

'Tis but a fever stilled,

A pain suppressed, a fear at rest,

A solemn hope fulfilled."

He has fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith ; henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give him at that day, and not to him only but unto all them also that love His appearing.



Copy of Minute adopted by the BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS at a meeting held November 2d, 1885.

That in the removal by death of our late Secretary, Rev. DAVID IRVING, D. D., on 12th of October, 1885, we bow with submission to God's sovereign will, while lamenting our own loss of a fellow laborer and brother beloved, and the loss of the Church of Christ, which he served, faithfully and well, as a Foreign Missionary, as a Pastor, and, for the last twenty years, as Corresponding Secretary of this Board.

We recognize the great loss sustained by our missionaries, especially those in fields lately under his immediate charge, in the severance of a relation involving so much mature judgment in the oversight of their work, and so much tender sympathy in their personal welfare.

ARTHUR MITCHELL,  
*Secretary.*





The following tribute to the memory of Dr. IRVING was published in *The Presbyterian* of November 21st, 1885, from Rev. F. F. ELLINWOOD, D.D., Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions :

It was in a morning paper of San Francisco that I first learned of the death of my esteemed colleague, Dr. IRVING. It was not altogether a surprise, for at our last interview I had found that a paralysis in his extremities was slowly creeping toward the seat of life, and that ere many days he would doubtless be called to his rest. Though he had been detained for months from the Mission House, it is still difficult to realize that my yoke fellow for so many years has been forever removed. It is sad to think how, in these times of high pressure and intellectual absorption, even those who have been most honored in their life-work are so soon forgotten, save in the nearer circle of friends and kindred, and I wish, as a matter of hearty esteem, to lay

one little flower upon the tomb of my associate, assured that, transient as the tribute may be, the savor of his influence will survive in the Church and its Missions even unto the Great Day.

I deem myself fortunate in having been associated with one of so much solidity and genuineness of character. For fourteen years we had labored together as one man, our offices being situated directly opposite, across a narrow hall, and our daily and almost hourly intercourse had passed without a word of unkindness or discourtesy, even in our widest differences of opinion.

Dr. IRVING held, with a true Scotch tenacity, to his convictions; and they were *convictions*, and not mere convenient sentiments, chosen for a purpose. It is rare that one meets with such downrightness and truthfulness of mind—such entire coincidence between the thought and the aim. It was in matters of judgment and counsel that the strong points of Dr. IRVING were to be found, and it is no mean tribute to his memory to say that he was most thoroughly appreciated in the inner circles of the Mission House, where he was known best. He was fitted for his place by that judicial fairness which was always observable in his conclusions. No judgment was formed from prejudice, much less from the promptings of self-interest. He was conservative, but never blindly so.

His interest in the work of Missions showed itself in his early consecration to the active service at the front, and was to the end so deep and genuine that it seemed to constitute a part of his very life. It is difficult to conceive of a greater trial than that which he experienced, during the weary months of languishing, in being debarred from the privilege of laboring still for the great and beloved cause.

His belief not only in the claims, but in the entire feasibility and ultimate success of the Mission work seemed as clear and deep as the consciousness of his own being. His convictions on the subject, like those of the great first missionary to the Gentiles, were based upon an uncompromising conviction of the great doctrines of moral ruin—deep, helpless and hopeless on the one hand, and of a full and availing salvation on the other. Rejoicing always in visible success, he was not disturbed by discouragements, as if engaged in a mere human venture, for he never doubted that his omnipotent Master was able to achieve.

There was a sunny side in the character of Dr. IRVING which I love to think of. With all his moral earnestness there was a breezy and jocular element which often proved a refreshment amid the heavy cares and perplexities of the missionary work. He performed his tasks with dispatch, and thus found time frequently to cross the hall and stir us

up with some pleasant sallies, or a new story which was too good to keep, and thus many a time he broke the spell of anxiety and helped us to approach a hard problem on a new tack. Not only his associates, but all the clerks and employees of the Mission House felt the cheer of his influence, and learned to value this element in his character, of which those who knew him less intimately were not aware.

It was a noticeable fact that his friendships were peculiarly deep and lasting. Those who had once come into his closer confidences were strongly attached to him through life. And I do not remember to have known any one who was more faithful and devoted to his friends than he, or upon whom they could call for help, in season and out of season, with greater assurance of success.

An erroneous impression seems to have prevailed that Dr. IRVING's death was a result of the accident which befel him in June, 1884, in Ireland. The shock produced by that casualty doubtless hastened his death, but the real cause was pre-existent and much deeper. Six years ago there was developed an obscure nervous disease which greatly prostrated him, and from which a year's absence in Europe did not fully restore him; and it was felt by those who knew him best that sooner or later that affection would end in his death.

In the days of his strength Dr. IRVING had seemed altogether the most vigorous man in the Mission House, but the old maxim that "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," has again been illustrated, and he whose work for his Master was his chief joy found grace to say, "Nevertheless not my will, but Thine be done," and his end was peace.

F. F. ELLINWOOD.

NEW YORK, November 10, 1885.



Minute adopted by the SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY, held October 18th, 1885.

In view of the death on Monday, the 12th of October instant, of Rev. DAVID IRVING, D. D., for twenty years one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions, and previously for ten years Pastor of this Church, Session discharge a sad but grateful duty, in entering on their minutes their appreciation of his personal worth and his uniformly dignified ministerial bearing and Christian courtesy.

No page of the history of this venerable Church, which has been blessed with so many faithful and earnest ministers, records a more successful pastorate, so far as success is to be measured by additions to the Church, and especially by the development and cultivation of a spirit of beneficence. The record of his pastorate here will ever constitute a living testimony to his zeal and faithfulness in the Master's service.

Of him it may be truly said that he obeyed the exhortation of the Apostle, "in feeding the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as being lord over God's heritage, but being an ensample to the flock," and we rejoice in the assurance that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, "he shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

JAMES R. VOORHEES,  
*Clerk.*



The SESSION OF THE CENTRAL CHURCH desire to put on record their sense of greivous loss in the death of Dr. DAVID IRVING. He was a brother not only beloved among us for his high Christian character and genial spirit, but esteemed and honored as a leader in this Church, to whom its organization and prosperous establishment were largely due.

We desire with thankfulness to our Heavenly Father to acknowledge our indebtedness for the many natural and gracious gifts which made him an invaluable helper in our councils and labors, and for the goodness of the Lord through which he was enabled for so many years to work and pray for the welfare of the Church he loved, as well as for the interests of the Master's cause at large.

We sorrow with the bereaved family, and tender to them in their great affliction our sincerest sympathies, while we look forward with them to the time when those that sleep in Jesus shall be changed into the likeness of his

own glorious body, and these broken fellowships shall be restored.

It was ordered that this paper be placed on record in the minutes of Session, and that a copy be tendered to the family of Dr. IRVING.

Signed,

ALFRED YEOMANS,

*Pastor.*

J. H. HAZARD,

DAVID L. WALLACE,

A. R. MCCOY,

CHARLES H. JONES,

} *Elders.*

ORANGE, November 8th, 1885.











DATE DUE

JUN 16 1980

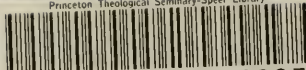
GAYLORD

PRINTED IN U.S.A.





Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 01038 6805